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Walc
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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Current UN Dilemma

1. Albania's surprise move at yesterday's General Assembly meeting caught virtually all UN members and officials flat-footed and they are probably now searching the rules of procedure for some way of coping with Tirana's call for a vote. Most delegates speculate that Communist China is behind the Albanian move which they believe is an effort to discredit the organization by forcing a confrontation between the US and the USSR over the arrears question.

2. Since 1 December when the 19th session opened after repeated delays, the assembly has avoided casting a vote in the hope that some way could be found to settle the arrears and peacekeeping dilemma. GA President Quaison-Sackey had planned to adjourn yesterday until September 1965 while a special committee--chosen by him--would tackle the thorny issue and negotiate between the two opposing camps. This none-too-brilliant scheme had the support of virtually all the members and Quaison-Sackey was all set to so rule yesterday. Then Albania threw the monkey wrench, forcing the president to adjourn until 18 February. Unfortunately this delay gives Albania time to comply with Rule 80 which requires copies of proposals to be circulated not later than the day before a meeting.

3. As things now stand, the General Assembly presumably could remain for some time in the present limbo invoking various rules of procedure of quasi-legal status. These possibilities include (1) the president not calling a meeting; (2) the chair not recognizing an Albanian request to speak; or (3) a walkout of enough members so there is no quorum. Any of these devices, however, would further discredit the organization in the eyes of the world and virtually accomplish what Albania--and presumably Communist China--intend.

4. Soviet delegate Morozov told Ambassador Yost yesterday that he personally thought Quaison-Sackey could handle the Albanian problem by having consultations with all members. Thereafter at the opening of the next meeting, the president would report that no member, or that only one or two, supported the Albanian motion. Then the assembly could proceed on the

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basis of the no-vote consensus until it was ready to adjourn as planned. Morozov said one delegation should not be allowed to disrupt the assembly and that the president should just ignore the delegate, "even if he stood up a thousand times."

5. As near as can be determined in this fluid situation, US officials are still prepared to face the confrontation if a vote can not be avoided. Both the US and the USSR are receiving the major share of blame for the "break-up" of the UN and most members are still pleading with the US, as the "more reasonable and responsible" of the two, to back down.

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